



# Maryland Attorney General's COVID-19 Access to Justice Task Force

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## MINUTES

### Housing Security Committee

### Renters' Issues Subcommittee

September 23, 2020

1. Call to order & Open Meetings Act discussion
2. Developments since last meeting
  - a. Reactions to recommendations
    - i. Lack of credit reporting protections
  - b. Finalizations needed by Oct. 2
3. Upcoming Town Hall meeting (Sept. 30)
  - a. Attempt to cut back to 30 minutes for presentation and allow 30 minutes for discussion
  - b. Topics:
    - i. CDC Order
    - ii. Resources for legal assistance and rental assistance
    - iii. Defenses- Housing 101 Training
    - iv. Courthouse procedures
  - c. Issues:
    - i. Tenants not showing up for court
      1. How to help this problem?
      2. Need for better outreach measures
    - ii. Tenants obtaining help when they do show up to court
    - iii. The need for a different model for how courts are applying/complying with the CDC order
    - iv. Some Judges not giving consideration to other defenses
    - v. Need for advertisement of all the Town Halls and other upcoming events and using members platforms to disburse public information
      1. Need to converse with Public Awareness Committee
4. Working on a near-term recommendation advocating for a better interpretation and application of the CDC Order

- a. Zafar, Greg, Shirley
- 5. Advocacy Letter to Governor on moratoria
  - a. Advocacy group members to volunteer
  - b. Consumer Protection Town Hall tonight at 6pm
- 6. Get to Court Informational tool